

RESOURCES

A Walking School Bus resource kit is available from QLDC for your school to customise.

QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL ALSO PROVIDES SUPPORT THROUGH A VARIETY OF WAYS:

- Assistance in setting up your walking school bus from the School Travel Plan Coordinator or Road Safety Coordinator
- Training of volunteers
- Promotional resources
- Assistance in celebrating and rewarding volunteers and participants
- Assistance in promoting your Walking School bus scheme



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US ON:

QUEENSTOWN: 03 441 0499
WANAKA: 03 443 0024

Here are some useful links for you to find out about Walking School Buses in action:

http://www.northshorecity.govt.nz/transport_and_roads/travelwise/walking-bus.htm

<http://www.travelwise.org.nz/WalkingSchoolBus/>

<http://www.ccc.govt.nz/saferoutes/wsb/>

choice

WALKING SCHOOL BUS

LAKES DISTRICT



THE WALKING SCHOOL BUS IS A FUN, SAFE AND ACTIVE WAY FOR CHILDREN TO TRAVEL TO AND FROM SCHOOL WITH ADULT SUPERVISION

WHAT IS A WALKING SCHOOL BUS

A Walking School Bus (WSB) is a group of children walking to school with one or more adults. If that sounds simple, it is. That's part of the beauty of a Walking School Bus. It can be as informal as two families taking turns walking their children to school, or as structured as a dedicated route with meeting points, a timetable and trained volunteers.

Parents often cite safety issues as one of the primary reasons they are reluctant to allow their children to walk to school. Participating in a WSB may help reduce this worry. A WSB provides both an adult supervised journey to school and a safe

environment for children to develop sensible road safety behaviour. Children can also develop the skills to become independent walkers.

THERE ARE NUMEROUS BENEFITS TO BE HAD FROM PARTICIPATING IN A WALKING SCHOOL BUS:

- Reduced congestion around school gates
- Healthier, more active children
- Increased independence for children
- Safer and closer communities
- Extra time for parents by sharing pedestrian journeys

STARTING SIMPLE

When beginning a Walking School Bus, remember that the programme can always grow. It often makes sense to start with a small bus and see how it works. There are several key factors in setting up a WSB.

- An enthusiastic teacher, parent or other volunteer to be a champion
- Strong interest of parents, guardians and children
- Reliable and enthusiastic adult volunteers
- Safe and convenient walking routes to the school



SETTING UP A WALKING SCHOOL BUS

→ DETERMINE THE INTEREST IN A WSB

If your school is involved in a School Travel Plan, the travel survey results are a good place to start. Or this can be done through your school newsletter or information sessions that are taking place.

From the information you get back, you will be able to determine which part of the neighbourhood has the most potential passengers and volunteers to set up a WSB.

→ IDENTIFY THE WSB ROUTE

Once you have determined the general area for a WSB route, it is important to identify a safe route to school. Identifying hazards is best done with assistance from the Council's Road Safety Coordinator, or School Travel Planner. They will be able to coordinate with Council engineers and planners for possible safety enhancements.

It is also important to establish where the bus stopping points will be and how long it will take to get to each one.

→ RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are normally parents, grandparents and, or guardians. It is recommended that the ratio of adults to children is one adult for every eight children. If you have interested volunteers from the community it is a good idea to put them through some type of vetting procedure. The Principal and, or Board of Trustees can decide if such a process should be in place for volunteer bus "drivers".

The success of a WSB depends on the regular participation of its volunteers. Draw up a volunteer roster including a list of volunteers who can step in when one of the regulars cannot make the day.

→ DEVELOP GUIDELINES

It is important that parents and volunteers are clear on responsibilities. Guidelines on how bus stops will run, what happens in bad weather, etc. and who is responsible for the children's safety should be clearly spelt out before the bus commences. A parent consent form must be signed.

KEEPING THE BUS GOING

Once the bus is operating successfully then it is important to think about fun ways to encourage its continuation.

- Have theme days or celebrate existing special days
- Acknowledge your walkers
- Regularly remind and recruit parents
- Acknowledge your volunteers

